

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5116
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001
IMPORT OF COFFEE
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have allowed import of coffee from overseas countries;
- (b) if so, the quantity of the coffee to be imported and from which countries and at what price;
- (c) the channel through which the coffee is to be imported i.e. private or Government;
- (d) whether the Indian Coffee producers have expressed apprehensions about the loss of their business as a result thereof; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for import and the steps proposed to be taken to protect the Indian growers against the inferior quality of imported coffee?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (e) : Consistent with WTO regulations, quantitative restrictions (QRs) on import of various commodities including coffee have been lifted w.e.f. 1.4.2001. With the lifting of QRs anybody can import coffee from any country by paying the custom duties.

Since India itself is a coffee exporting country and import of coffee has been insignificant, the threat of material injury on account of removal of QRs is not likely to be felt in the domestic coffee industry. However, to discourage import of coffee, import duty on coffee has been increased from 35% to 70%. Further, in order to ensure that cheaper/inferior quality coffees are not dumped in India and also to protect the domestic industry, the Govt. of India will not hesitate to invoke all tariff and non tariff measures available to it, if situation so warrants.